

REMARKS

Entry of Amendment and IDS

Applicants are filing a RCE and petition to withdraw from issuance herewith. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this amendment and the accompanying IDS be entered and considered by the Examiner at this time.

Amendment

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of the present application.

Upon review of the application and claims after allowance, Applicants have decided to cancel Claims 13-27, 54-56, 63-65 and 71-73 in view of US 2001/0017372 (Koyama), without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants are canceling these claims, despite the fact that Koyama was properly submitted and considered by the Examiner during the prosecution of this application, as explained below.

Koyama (US 2001/0017372)

Koyama (US 2001/0017372) is already of record in this application. Koyama was cited in an IDS filed on October 27, 2005. The reference was thereafter considered by the Examiner and an initialed 1440 form included with the Office Action of February 7, 2006.

Subsequently, the claims were allowed over the art of record.

While Applicants believe that the remaining claims are patentable over Koyama, in light of the RCE being filed herewith, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner carefully consider the patentability of Claims 7-10, 12, 28, 29, 31-33, 35-37, 40, 41, 43, 45-51, 53, 57-60, 62, 66-70, 74-77 in view of Koyama.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants are also submitting an information disclosure statement (IDS) herewith. It is respectfully requested that this IDS be entered and considered prior to the issuance of any further action on this application.

Conclusion

It is respectfully requested that this amendment be entered and allowed.

If any fee should be due for this amendment, please charge our deposit account 50/1039.

Favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Date: *March 20, 2008*

Respectfully submitted,

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